



Community Forums Set For Expansion

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A busy time in 2016 and plenty planned for the year ahead

The year is fast coming to a close with Christmas and New Year festivities already happening.

The Council year has come and gone at an enormous pace with immense storms and damage occurring recently requiring Council to realign its works program to one of a maintenance regime rather than our initial plan to have a capital program progressing.

The storm damage will put our Capital Program behind by a couple of months. Earlier in the year we saw the restructure of the Engineering and Environmental Services departments with the retirement of senior staff in the Engineering Department.

These two departments are now combined into one department called Operational Services with the recruitment of Peter Porch as Manager, Operational Services. This change will and has already led to greater efficiencies in this department with operational alignments and task reallocation occurring.

The Council Budget process was redesigned to allow elected members to concentrate on the strategic financial issues of Council, which included the reassessing of Financial Ratios to ensure the Financial Sustainability of Council. The Budget process with simpler financial reports from management has allowed members a greater understanding and delivery of the budget.

To ensure value for ratepayer's dollar, Council management is continually reviewing the services we provide to the community to ensure efficiencies and best practice are achieved. This review process is ongoing and in the next 12 months Council will have reviewed most services and determined the level of service required and the costs associated with this service.

Understanding the condition of Council assets is a major project Council is currently undertaking. Asset management is a key component of Council's Long Term Financial Plan. The knowledge gained in reviewing assets that is as broad as roads, sealed and unsealed, buildings, bridges, community facilities, sporting facilities etc is immense in determining the appropriate maintenance regime and cost that feed into the annual Council rates to the community.

Council is also working with the local community committees in allowing these committees, with some additional Council funding, to run their own halls and facilities, whether this is for sporting or general community use. Local communities know their hall and sporting requirements far better than Council, therefore Council is working with local communities to achieve better value for the dollar.

The Northern Areas Council region has a huge number of volunteers that represent many and varied organisations. Volunteers save the community tens of thousands of dollars each year in the services they perform. These volunteers willingly give up their time to help others in many ways.

The Northern Areas Council thanks all these volunteers for their efforts in the past year.

As this is the last newsletter for the year, the Northern Areas Council wishes everyone an enjoyable and safe festive season.

Elected Member Contact Details

Elected Member contact details are available on Council's website www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Community Forums

Over a number of years Council has been running community forums in several of our townships. At these forums Council gives a presentation of Council activities currently being undertaken and looking forward of what Council has planned for the future, then having a question and answer session.

To date these community forums have been excellent and importantly the sharing between the Council and the community has allowed us to progress issues and determine what are the issues more efficiently.

Council has now decided to expand these community forums to take in all the communities within the Council area and hold more formally scheduled forums. These forums will commence in February 2017. A schedule of dates will be prepared and distributed in the near future.

Strategic Plan

The Northern Areas Council Strategic Plan is the most important document Council has in the suite of plans that Council operates under.

A strategic plan sets the direction of Council for the next 5 to 10 years. The plan takes into account the functions and outcomes the Council and community wish to achieve. The operations of Council should be set around direction set in the strategic plan.

In the next few months Council is required to review its strategic plan. Although Council must review the strategic plan by legislation it is good practice to constantly review the strategic plan on a periodic basis, as this ensures there has not been a drastic change in community issues that Council needs to address.

As part of the Strategic Plan review a Community Survey is proposed to hear the thoughts of the community and determine what the major considerations are for Council. This survey will allow the Council to consider the views of the community in the development of the new Strategic Plan.

The community survey is planned to be with the community early February.

Capital Works Update

Despite the disruption presented with storms, capital works are continuing to be carried out. Improvements at the Jamestown pool have been completed along with re-sheeting to Butterick and Euromina Roads.

Planning for reseal works is well underway with the program likely to commence in December.

Storm Damage

At the end of September and early in October the region and indeed most of South Australia, struggled with extreme weather events which included "mini-tornadoes" generally very strong winds and heavy rains over numbers of days to produce damaging floods.

Northern Areas had its share of troubles and for Council, this meant overnight and weekend preparation and responses to the weather.

Many roads were cut off through creek lines and floodway's with water covering sections of road that reportedly haven't been seen to be covered before.



The damage to Council's assets was however, limited. There was no building damage for example.

There is damage to unsealed roads which staff still work their way through with patrol grading and a few isolated areas where capital repairs have been required.

Localised and short term inundation occurred on roads and private property in most townships.



Project Updates

Jamestown Swimming Pool Changing Room Now Complete

After much anticipation, the Changing Room Upgrade Project at the Jamestown Swimming Pool is now complete, with the community enjoying the improved facilities.

The project totaled \$120,000, with grant funding of \$55,000 provided by the State Government through the Office for Recreation and Sport, in addition to \$15,000 cash contribution from the Jamestown Swimming Pool Committee, who have also been provided with a loan from Council for the remaining \$50,000 of project costs.

The overall project consisted of completely removing and replacing all of the existing floors, toilets, showers and plumbing in addition to installing new ceilings, lights and electrical wiring in each of the changing rooms.



The Disabled change room has also undergone a significant upgrade, with new a new modern toilet and shower, to enable the room to meet the modern day standards.



Jamestown Stadium Canteen Ready for Action

The Regional Sports Stadium at Jamestown, colloquially known as “The Big Shed” is now better able to cater for its patrons, with the completion of the canteen facility.

The canteen construction is valued at \$68,500 and has been funded through a grant of \$20,000 from the State Government’s Fund My Idea Program, \$10,000 from the Ram and Ewe Ball Committee, \$2,500 of earthworks from Council, with the remaining funds of \$36,000 being provided by the Stadium Committee and the local Basketball, Cricket and Soccer Clubs.



Fire Prevention

Council wishes to remind private property owners that it is their legal responsibility to reduce and manage their property's fuel load.

The safety of our homes, family and friends are of importance to us all. Adverse weather events including hot temperatures, high winds and thunder storms can have a negative effect upon our safety, our homes and our properties. The events caused by adverse weather (eg. fire, flood, fallen trees) can affect local services including access to power and communications services plus limit our ability to travel, work, and other daily activities. While we cannot control the weather, each of us can have an influence on the outcomes of these adverse weather events upon our family, friends and the wider community.

Grassfires spread rapidly and can quickly threaten lives and property. As grass (and weeds) are a fine fuel, a fire will burn through it faster than through a forest. If you live in a grassland area you need to have a Bushfire Survival Plan and prepare yourself and your property for grassfire. A grassfire can travel up to 25 km/h, and in extreme circumstances pulsing up to 60 km/h in open grassland. The taller and drier the grass, the more intensely a grassfire will burn. Short grass under 10cm is a much lower risk, and will be easier to control if on fire.

Within and around the outskirts of townships, grasses and/ or weeds must be mowed/ slashed to a maximum height of less than 10cm (4 inches) at least one month before and during the fire danger season. Alternatively, the weeds could be removed from the property.

Please do not leave grasses/ weeds uncut (more than 10cm high) along the property boundary, or adjacent to sheds, garages, carports, rainwater tanks and other structures.

Depending upon the fuel load on the ground (eg. height and density of grasses/ weeds), a grass fire can quickly turn into a higher intensity fire when the fire moves up into trees. Flame height of a grass fire can be over 1m high and can reach the lower branches and foliage of a tree.

Property owners are asked to trim the tree branches and foliage of mature trees to provide a clearance of 1.8m high above the ground.

Council's Fire Prevention Officer is reviewing properties and issuing fire hazard reduction - Section 105F Notices (under the Fire and Emergency Services Act, 2005). In situations where the property owner does not comply with the 105F Notice, Council will be issuing an expiation notice (\$315 which is set by the legislation) and arrange for a contractor to carry out the work. The contractor's fee, plus an administration fee of \$50 will be forwarded on to the property owner.

Please remember that it is the property owner's responsibility, not Council's, for private properties to be maintained before and during the fire danger season to reduce the probability of their property being affected by bushfire/ grassfire. **The Fire Danger Season for 2016/17 for the mid-north is from 15th November 2016 to 30th April 2017.**

Since May 2016 there has been an above median rainfall across most of Australia. The higher than normal moisture content of the lower soil levels is causing a noticeable increase in vegetation growth. The drying out of this vegetation during the summer will increase the amount of flammable fuels on the ground.

If the above median rainfall continues, there is likely to be more re-growth of vegetation than the past few years, which may mean that property owners needing to carrying out additional mowing/ slashing and/ or vegetation removal to maintain their Asset Protection Zones and Bushfire Buffer Zones.

Property owners can reduce the impact that a bushfire/ grassfire can have on their property by managing vegetation, including trees, which are likely to fuel a bushfire or grassfire.

Preparation & Monitoring Checklist

- Maintain a 20-metre fuel reduction zone around your home
- Clear around trees.
- Remove leaves from the gutters.
- Slash stubble near sheds/buildings.
- Check reserve water supplies.
- Rehearse your Bushfire Action Plan with your family.
- Prepare evacuation kit.
- Ensure you have a battery-powered radio to hear warnings
- Monitor fire restrictions.

Keep informed:

- CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au
- CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
- On local ABC radio, Five AA, or one of the Emergency Broadcast Partner radio stations.

For further information contact:
Council's Fire Prevention Officer
Jennie Window on 8664 1139
Or via email jennie.window@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Council Meeting Rotation Calendar

At Council's September ordinary meeting, Council has opted to continue a further 12 months of rotating the venues of its ordinary meetings, as listed all meetings commence at 2pm.

Ordinary Meetings will continue to rotate between the following towns:

	<u>2016</u>
20 December	Laura Memorial Civic Centre
	<u>2017</u>
17 January	Jamestown, Council Chamber
21 February	Spalding District Hall
21 March	Jamestown, Council Chamber
18 April	Georgetown Memorial Hall
16 May	Jamestown, Council Chamber
20 June	Yacka Memorial Hall
18 July	Jamestown, Council Chamber
15 August	Gulnare, Memorial Institute
19 September	Jamestown, Council Chamber

Single Farm Enterprise

Section 152 of the Local Government Act 1999 states that "if two or more pieces of rateable land within the area of the Council constitute a Single Farm Enterprise, only one fixed charge may be imposed against the whole of the land".

If you have purchased, sold, subdivided or amalgamated any land or changed your entity you will need to update your application form. Forms are available from the Jamestown, Gladstone and Spalding Offices and must be completed and returned by **5:00pm on Friday 30th June 2017**.

If the application form is not received by Council by the due date, no exemption will apply to the 2017/2018 financial year fixed charge component of your rates.

A majority of farming entities have already completed a form and are receiving a Single Farm Enterprise, and therefore a reduction on the fixed charge component of their rates.

For further information please contact Tanya Francis or Bernadette McCarthy at the Jamestown Office on 08 8664 1139.

Receive your rates notices via email

Have your rates notice delivered to any device or computer. It is quick, easy and a secure way to receive your rate notice.

Scan the QR code printed on your rates notice or go to www.nacouncil.formsport.com.au

Register you details (See "Steps to register" below) and the next rates notice will be conveniently delivered to your nominated email address.

Steps to register:

Step 1

- Complete the online registration form once you have scanned your QR code or have gone to www.nacouncil.formsport.com.au
- Click on the register tab in the top right hand corner
- Enter your name exactly as it appears on the rates notice, including spaces and symbols.
- Enter your assessment number and email address
- Choose a username, (make it easy to remember so you can log in later).

Step 2

- Check your inbox. Click the link, it lasts for 48 hours.

Step 3

- Choose a password. Use this along with your username to log in.
- You will now receive rates notices in your inbox, and you can log in and view them online at any time.

For further information please contact Tanya Francis or Bernadette McCarthy at the Jamestown Office on 08 8664 1139.

Rural Management Challenge

Several Council staff recently attended the South Australian Local Government Professionals Rural Management Challenge. The Challenge is a professional development opportunity specifically designed to test the participant's knowledge of local government processes and procedures through a series of tasks.

Council's team finished fourth on the day and first across the Central Local Government Region's participating Councils.



Infrastructure Update

What do Flooding rains, Storm water and Smoke have in common?

Recent storm activity provided a reminder to Council that the capacity of the CWMS ponds is being exceeded in Jamestown and Laura with critically high levels in Laura and an overflow at Jamestown as capacity was exceeded.

The amount of storm water finding its way into the sewerage system is seriously impacting the system capacity which, if not controlled, will have financial impacts to increase the pump station sizes and pond area. This would be an uneconomical use of money and increase the system operating costs.

The solution for council is to find out where storm water is entering the system and eliminate it. The most common way to do this is to smoke test the pipe system.

This is done by forcing smoke back up the main and looking up and down the street for where the smoke comes out. Such testing in the past has found things like hollow fence posts mistakenly driven in to sewer mains. It also identifies poor seals on septic tanks below ground and any illegal storm water connections into the system.

The volume of water coming into the system when it rains is so much higher than regular usage that there is a considerable storm water infiltration to sewer through one way or another. It is an important task for council to find the worst of these and remove the ingress of water and ensure the system works efficiently for all system stakeholders.

Council is currently considering smoke testing within Jamestown where the infiltration is the greatest and system capacity is the least.

Kerbside Waste Collection over Christmas and New Year

Waste Collections continue over the Christmas New Year Period as per the waste & recycling calendar. The calendar can be viewed or downloaded from Council's website www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au

There are no changes to the normal collection days for both waste and recycling during this period however, **the time of pick up** may change.

All residents are reminded that the service is an overnight collection. **Please remember to place your bins out for collection the night before to ensure pick up.**

Transfer Stations Closures over Christmas and New Year

The following changes will occur in regard to opening times at the transfer stations.

Gladstone

Closed Sunday 25th December

Closed Sunday 1st January

Open normal times on Wednesday 28th December
11am-1pm

Jamestown

Closed Sunday 25th December

Closed Sunday 1st January

Open normal times on Wednesday 28th December
12noon-3pm

Spalding

Closed Sunday 25th December

Closed Sunday 1st January

Closed on Tuesday 27th December

Waste Collection Changes

Council's waste collection service is to continue as scheduled however the means of collection will be modified to a contracted service.

In a review of the kerbside waste collection methodology a potential opportunity to decrease the cost of the service was recognised.

Council called for tenders and the successful tenderer was Clare Valley Waste Management who takes over the service delivery on the 1st December 2016.

The collection will continue as scheduled for the majority of residents. Any properties where there is a collection day change required will be contacted directly by letter with details of those changes.

The change has represented a saving of over \$100,000 annually

Office Closures Over Christmas

Jamestown Administration Office

Closing: 3.00pm Friday 23 December 2016
 Reopen: 9.00am Tuesday 3 January 2017
 Normal business hours resume **3 January 2017**

Gladstone Administration Office

Closing: 2.00pm Friday 23 December 2016
 Reopen: 9.00am Monday 9 January 2017
 Reduced business hours during January 2017 and part of February 2017 are outlined below:

Open 2 Days a Week during January 2017

Mon	9	Wed	11
Mon	16	Wed	18
Mon	23	Wed	25

Open 3 Days a Week during February 2017

Mon	30 Jan	Wed	1	Fri	3
Mon	6	Wed	8	Fri	10
Mon	13	Wed	15	Fri	17
Mon	20	Wed	22	Fri	24
Mon	27	Resumes to 5 days a week			

Gladstone Office will resume normal business hours from **Monday 27 February 2017**.

Spalding Administration Office

Closing: 5.00pm Thursday 15 December 2016
 Reopen: 9.00am Tuesday 10 January 2017
 Reduced business hours during January 2017 and part of February 2017 are outlined below:

Open 1 Day a Week during Jan/Feb 2017

Tuesdays	Jan	10	17	24	31
Tuesdays	Feb	7	14	21	28

Spalding Office will return to normal business hours opening two days per week from **Tuesday 28 February 2017**

Hydrotherapy Pool Christmas Closure

The Jamestown Regional Hydrotherapy Pool will close over the Christmas period as per below.

Closing: Friday 16 December 2016
 Reopen: Tuesday 3 January 2017

Calendar of Council Meetings

Ordinary meetings of the Northern Areas Council are held at venues across the Council area, on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 2pm

The general public are always welcome to attend
 Upcoming meeting dates and venues are:

Tue 20th December	Laura	2pm
Tue 17th January	Jamestown	2pm
Tue 21st February	Spalding	2pm

For further meeting dates please visit

www.nacouncil.sa.gov.au

After Hours Council Contact During Christmas Closure Period

Please call 0488 999 808

Flinders Mobile Library Christmas Closure

Flinders Mobile Library will be closing for the Christmas/New Year holiday break at 4pm on Friday 16 December. We will re-open for business as usual on Tuesday 3 January.

You can find us back on the road in Northern Areas Council townships on the following dates:

Laura	3 rd January 2017
Gladstone	4 th January 2017
Gulnare	11 th January 2017
Spalding	11 th January 2017
Georgetown	11 th January 2017
Yacka	13 th January 2017

Please check the timetable on our website for more information www.flindersmobile.sa.gov.au

Don't forget, if you run out of reading material you can always borrow eBooks and eAudio items via our website. All you need is your library card number and PIN.

Flinders Mobile Library staff would like to wish all their borrowers celebrating the season a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Northern Passenger Transport Network Christmas Closure

Office

Closing: 5pm Friday 23 December 2016
 Reopen: Monday 3 January 2017

Volunteer Transport

Closing: 5pm Friday 23 December 2016
 Reopen: Monday 3 January 2017

For further details contact Lyn Forster via:

Phone: 08 8666 2255 Email: lyn@mtr.sa.gov.au



Principal Office—Jamestown
 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
 94 Ayr St, JAMESTOWN SA 5491
 PO Box 120, JAMESTOWN SA 5491
 Ph: (08) 8664 1139 Fx: (08) 8664 1085
 Email: ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Gladstone Office
 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
 Town Hall, Fifth Street
 GLADSTONE SA 5473
 Ph: (08) 8662 2018 Fx: (08) 8662 2394
 Email: ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au

Spalding Office
 Tuesday 10am-2pm
 Thursday 9am-5pm
 Town Hall, Main Street, SPALDING SA 5454
 Ph: (08) 8845 2017 Fx: (08) 8845 2017
 Email: ceo@nacouncil.sa.gov.au